HIGHER EDUCATION Brief

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Editor's Note

Before coming to Concordia, higher education law was my focus of study for more than three years. As a researcher and, for the past three years, as the Legal Counsel of Concordia University, universities have been not only my vocation, but also my passion.

The purpose of the Higher Education Brief is to disseminate what I have learned and am still learning about universities. This pamphlet will deal more particularly with the law of higher education. Published bi-monthly, it will serve as a complement to The Grey Area which already provides basic information on legal issues of interest to the Concordia community.

However, the first three editions will look at our past. Law may wait a while.

Not long ago, Patrick Kenniff, our Rector, poetically described Concordia as "... 'a mariage de raison' between a strong-willed Irish Catholic and an equally determined and enterprising downtown Scottish Protestant...".

> **Excerpt from** Address by Dr. Patrick Kenniff, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, to a Joint Meeting of the Board of Governors and Senate, October 30, 1989.

This edition is especially devoted to the fathers of the bride, Sir George Williams University.

Michèle Gamache
Legal Counsel

Sir George Williams, Kt. (1821-1905): First among the 'fathers of the bride'

In 1844, in London, twelve young men, led by draper George Williams, met to establish a non-sectarian, non-political Christian lay movement dedicated to the "improvement of the spiritual condition in the drapery and other trades," the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

George Williams must have been an unassuming man. Despite his having founded an organization with more than 5 million members worldwide little is known about him personally except that he liked travel and was created a life peer in 1894.

But his creation burgeoned from the beginning, spreading to Australia in 1850 and, in 1851, to Montréal, where North America's first branch of the YMCA eventually gave birth to Sir George Williams University.

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

"WHEREAS Gerald W. Birks, jeweller, John H. Davey, manufacturer, Honourable George B. Foster, barrister and King's Counsel, John B. Frosst, manufacturer, Eric A. Leslie, railway vice-president, B. Wynne Roberts, railway vice-president, John G. McConnell, publisher, Guy Tombs, transportation expert, Harold M. Long, agent, Leonard W. Townsend, banker, John M. Pritchard, president, Howard I. Ross, chartered accountant, Osmond B. Thornton, general manager, Fred B. Walls, merchant, Madison M. Walter, banker, Norman B. Walton, railway vice-president, and James H. Webb, executive, all of the district of Montréal, have, by their petition, represented:

> That they are all members of the Metropolitan Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association of Montréal, which has since 1926 carried on and operated an educational institution known as Sir George Williams College;
>
> That the said institution has included since the year 1929 a Faculty of Arts, a Faculty of Science and a Faculty of Commerce, and that there are now enrolled in the said Faculties of the said institution over two thousand three hundred students, of whom over seven hundred are veterans of World War II; [...]

Therefore, His Majesty, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, enacts as follows:

1. The persons named in the petition and their successors duly elected are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic [...] under the name of 'Sir George Williams College' [...]

   a) To carry on and conduct a college or university within the province of Quebec to impart education and higher education in all branches of classical, technical, general, scientific, commercial and artistic learning...".

Excerpt from the preamble of the *Act to incorporate Sir George Williams University*, assented to the 11th of March 1948.

THE FIRST GOVERNORS

Sixteen men, all members of the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association, had been the spiritual fathers of Sir George Williams University. Some were already members of the Board of Governors of Sir George Williams College.

Each of them was successful, well-known and part of the élite class of post-war Montréal. Most were businessmen, some, self-made men. They resided in Westmount or in the Golden Square Mile and were members of the St-James or Mount-Royal clubs. Golf was their favourite sport.

They were, before their time, social critics. Some took part in the First World War; but all were sensitive to the difficulty of access to education encountered by young men, veterans or not, of the Second World War.

Forty-five years after you collectively dreamed about what this University would become, we wish to remember or know who you were.

* * *

Gerald Walker Birks. Merchant; attended Montréal High School; Vice-chairman of Henry Birks & Sons, Ltd., a firm founded by his father; served in the First World War; went to France as Major and General Supervisor of YMCA; President of the Montréal YMCA; recipient of the Order of the British Empire; Governor of Sir George Williams College since 1933.

John Harold Davey. Industrial executive; attended the Royal Technology College, Cornwall, England; President and Managing Director of International Paints (Can.), Ltd.; engaged with the Minister of Munitions in England and Canada during the First World War.

George Buchanan Foster. Lawyer and King's Counsel; attended McGill University (B.C.L.); member of the attornies' office Foster, Hannen, Watt and Stikeman; served in the First World War with the Royal Flying Corps; recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

John Burr Frosst. Manufacturer; attended University of Maryland (Ph.D.); President and Director of Charles E. Frosst & Co. Ltd., a pharmaceutical manufacturing company; Director of Guardian Trust Company; Governor of Sir George Williams College since 1933.

Eric Alexander Leslie. Company executive; attended McGill University (B.Sc.); Vice-President and Comptroller of Canadian Pacific Railway Co.; entered service of the CPR as a chainman; served in the First World War as Lieutenant with the Royal Canadian Artillery in England and France.

Harold Maltby Long. Industrialist; attended Hamilton College Institute, Hamilton, Ontario; President of H.M. Long Ltd.; Assistant to Morris W. Wilson, Representative in Canada and the United States of Lord Beaverbrook and the British Minister of Aircraft Production; Organizer and Chief Executive Officer of "ATFERO" (afterward Royal Air Force Ferry Command); Freemason (Royal Archives and Scottish Rite).

John Griffith McConnell. Newspaper publisher; attended McGill University, Cambridge and Mount Allison University (L.L.D.); Publisher of the Montreal Star; member of the National Board of Directors of the Canadian Mental Health Association; Public Relations Adviser to ATFERO and Royal Air Force Command; Commander of the British Empire.

John McClary Pritchard. Industrialist; attended Wesley College, Winnipeg; President of McColl-Frontenac Oil Co. Ltd.; President of the National Council, YMCA; Governor of the Children's Memorial Hospital, the Montreal Shriners' Hospital and the Montreal General Hospital; Freemason (Scottish Rite and Shriner).

B. Wynne Roberts. Transportation executive; attended Tuckwell's College, Winnipeg; Vice-President (Purchases & Stores) of Canadian Pacific Railway Co.; served in the First World War with the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force; Freemason; recipient of the Order of the British Empire; Chairman of the Board of Governors of Sir George Williams College since 1947.

Howard Irwin Ross. Chartered accountant; attended McGill University (B.A.); Oxford University (M.A.); Queen's University (LL.D.); partner of the chartered accountants' firm, Touche, Ross, Bailey & Smart; former Chancellor of McGill University; Ration Administrator of the War Prices Trade Board; recipient of the Order of the British Empire; Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of Sir George Williams College since 1947.

Osmond Buckland Thornton. Company executive; attended Coaticook High School; Vice-President and General Manager of Montreal Trust Co. Ltd.; Director of Wabasso Cotton Co. Ltd.

Guy Tombs. Transportation executive; attended the High School of Montreal; President of Guy Tombs Ltd., freight and shipping broker and travel agent; President of the Montréal Dispensary; Fellow of the Royal Empire Society; had served on many committees dealing with social welfare; recipient of the Chevalier Order of Leopold II (Belgium).

Leonard William Townsend. Banker; attended King Edward VI School, Bromsgrove, England; Assistant

General Manager of the Bank of Montreal; member of the Board of Governors of the Montréal Council of Social Agencies; member of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army; served in the First World War with the 181st and the 44th Battalions; severely wounded at Canal du Nord, France; Captain; recipient of the Military Cross; recipient of the Order of the British Empire.

Frederick Baird Walls. Merchant; Vice-President of the T. Eaton Company; served in the First World War with the 75th Battalion, the Canadian Expeditionary Force and the Royal Air Force.

Madison Melville Walter. Banker; Assistant General Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada; served in the First World War with the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Norman B. Walton. Transportation executive; Executive Vice-President of Canadian National Railways; entered service with the CNR as a clerk and stenographer; Commander of the British Empire.

James Webb. Manufacturer; attended High School of Montreal; Vice-President and Managing Director of Jenkins Bros., Ltd.; member of the Montreal Board of Trade; Commissioner of the Town of Montreal West; member of the Rotary Club.

* * *

On March 11, 1948, B. W. Roberts, the Chairman of the first Board of Governors of Sir George Williams College, received a telegram to the effect that its Incorporation Act had received Royal Assent. It had been presented to the Public Bills Committee of the Provincial Legislature and was passed by both houses of the Legislature without a dissenting vote. In 1959, another Act providing that the name of Sir George Williams College be changed to Sir George Williams University received Royal Assent. As the institution already possessed the power to grant degrees under its own authority, the new Act made little internal change. However, the Board of Governors felt that a chancellor should now be appointed. B.W. Roberts, who had been Chairman of the Board since 1947, began his mandate at the Spring Convocation of 1960.

The granting of a university charter was a turning point for Sir George Williams College. The Provincial Department of Education recognized its B.A. degree for the purposes of the High School Teaching Diploma and the Quebec Bar, as a condition of admission to the study and practice of law in the province. Furthermore, in 1949, the National Conference of Canadian Universities admitted Sir George Williams College to membership. Such membership was the criterion used by the federal government for the distribution of grants to universities.

This page of our history, and so many more, were written under the leadership of the principals of Sir George Williams College. We wish to remember who you were.

THE FIRST PRINCIPALS

Montréal, 1925.

A separate branch of the Montréal YMCA is established under the name of the Montréal YMCA Schools. A year later, the Board of Management of this institution felt that it should have a distinctive name in order for its students and alumni to develop an esprit de corps. The name of the founder of the YMCA movement, Sir George Williams, is chosen to be honoured and perpetuated.

Anson Walt Young (1925-28)

Anson Walt Young and his wife, Sarah Emily Ostrom, influenced the training of thousands of students who attended the evening courses given by the educational department of the YMCA and the Mount Royal Business College. The latter was established by Mr. Young in 1899 and absorbed in 1939 by Sir George Williams College.

Both were born in Belleville, Ontario. Before coming to Montréal, Anson Young had served for five years as the Principal of Mount Allison Business College in Sackville, New Brunswick, and was the founder of a business college in Fredericton. Among other subjects, the Youngs taught shorthand, typewriting, penmanship, bookkeeping and French.

In the early years of Sir George Williams College, this institution was a business school, well recognized in the English-speaking community. When Anson Young retired in 1939 and his private school became part of the college, the day division had a total of 98 students, all young men. In 1939-40, the total had increased to 331, the majority of whom were now young women.

The Youngs had two daughters, one of whom was named Abigail. She was a licenced performer in voice and violin as well as a registered attendant nurse. One day, her father brought home a young man struggling to recuperate from typhoid fever. Abigail took care of him and fell in love. Later the two wed. This young man was Owen Stredder, who, in 1928, became the second principal of Sir George Williams College.

Frederick Owen Stredder (1928-35)

Frederick Owen Stredder was born in Birmingham, England. His family emigrated to Halifax, Nova Scotia,

where he completed his elementary schooling. He attended the Halifax Academy, the Royal Naval College, the University of Toronto, McGill University and Lincoln University. He held a Bachelor's degree of Pedagogy, a Master's degree of Arts in Educational Psychology and a Doctor's degree in Education. He also attended courses leading to the Anglican (High Church) ministry.

Owen Stredder was one of the founders of St. George's School, Montréal's first progressive school. In 1924, he became Vice-Principal of the YMCA Schools. A year later, he reorganized the educational program of these schools which became a distinctive unit and, on his suggestion, was later named Sir George Williams College. In 1928, he was appointed Principal of this college, a position he held until 1935.

During the First World War, Owen Stredder served in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserves as a wireless telegraph operator. In 1939, he was called for Active Service and was appointed Paymaster Lieutenant Commander and, later, Paymaster Commander for the RCNVR of His Majesty's Canadian Ships Stadacona and Restigouche.

Owen Stredder was a keen photographer and a musician, playing the organ and the piano. He was also a painter. His favourite subjects were country scenes and landscapes.

Kenneth Everette Norris (1936-1956)

Kenneth Everette Norris was born in Perth, Ontario. He attended McGill University and was the holder of a Bachelor's degree of Arts and a Doctor's degree in Psychology. A member of both the Canadian and American Psychological Associations, he was President of the Psychological Association of the Province of Québec in 1944-45. He was also an active member of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences and the National Society for the Study of Education.

In 1940-41, Kenneth Norris was President of the St-James Literary Society and in 1949-50, President of the Occupational Therapy Centre of Montréal. A Freemason, he was past President of the University Lodge.

In 1929, he was appointed Registrar and Bursar of Sir George Williams College. In 1936, he became Principal of this institution. Kenneth Norris was President of the Canadian Association of YMCA Secretaries, 1942-45; President of the Association of the YMCA Schools and Colleges of Canada and the U.S.A., 1942-45; Chairman of the Canadian YMCA Study; 1943-45 and Vice-President of the YMCA Secretaries of North America, 1951-53.

It is under his leadership that Sir George Williams College obtained a university charter. In 1955, its Board of Governors felt that a new building was required to act as the centre of the college's operations and provide facilities for years to come. In 1964, it was named the Kenneth E. Norris Building as a permanent memorial to the former Principal.

Henry Foss Hall (1956-1966)

Henry Foss Hall was born in Farnham, Québec. He attended the Diocesan Theological College and graduated with a Licentiate in Religious Education. He also obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern University in Philadelphia.

At the age of eighteen, he voluntarily took part in the First World War. He served in the 42nd Battalion of the Royal Highlanders of Canada, the Black Watch. Having been injured, he began working with the Recreational facilities for servicemen sponsored by the YMCA.

In the twenties, he was the first student counsellor for Sir George Williams College and the first in any college or university in Canada. He was appointed Dean in 1935 and became Principal in 1956.

He was President of the University Counseling and Placement Association of Canada; Vice-President and later President of the Board of Directors of the Montréal Council of Social Agencies; Vice-President of the United Nations Association in Canada, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada; and a member of the Board of Directors of the English Speaking Union.

He was considered as a gifted teacher. His keen desire to help others became the embodiment of what later came to be known as the "Georgian Spirit". The honour that Henry Hall appreciated most was the decision of the University to name its new building after him.

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